

Peace Lutheran Church

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Gary Erickson, Interim Pastor

Shari Simon, Diaconal Minister

Matt Piet, organist/accompanist

Our Vision Statement: *Sharing Peace Faithfully*

Our Mission: *To bring people into contact with the Gospel, and help them grow in their relationship to God in Christ.*

Please check our Peace website www.peacenewlenox.org regularly for updates.

Check out our [January Newsletter](#) and [Sunday School News](#)

We live stream our service on Sundays at 8:30am

This Week and Beyond

Sat., Jan. 7 - Ladies Ensemble Rehearsal 3:00pm

Sat., Jan. 7 - Worship service 5:00pm

Sun., Jan. 8 - Worship services 8:30am & 11:00am

Sun., Jan. 8 - Children's Choir rehearsal 9:00am

Sun., Jan. 8 - Sunday School & Adult Class/Peace Page Turners 9:45am

Mon., Jan. 9 - Senior Exercise Group 12:00pm

Tues., Jan. 10 - Handbell rehearsal 7:00pm

Wed., Jan. 11 - Bible Study 10:00am

Wed., Jan. 11 - Senior Exercise Group 11:15am

Wed., Jan. 11 - Prayer Shawls 6:00pm

Wed., Jan. 11 - Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm

Sat., Jan. 14 - Special Prayers for Healing Worship service 5:00pm

Sun., Jan. 15 - Worship services 8:30am & 11:00am

Sun., Jan. 15 - Children's Choir rehearsal 9:00am

Sun., Jan. 15 - New Member Orientation 9:45am

Sun., Jan. 15 - Sunday School & Adult Class

Mon., Jan. 16 - Ruth Circle Quilters 9:00am

Mon., Jan. 16 - Senior Exercise Group 12:00pm

Tues., Jan. 17 - Handbell rehearsal 7:00pm

Wed., Jan. 18 - Bible Study 10:00am

Wed., Jan. 18 - Senior Exercise Group 11:15am

Wed., Jan. 18 - Adult Choir rehearsal 7:00pm

Words to This Week's Hymns

Opening Hymn - #304 - *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized* (St. 1, 2, 4)

1. Christ, when for us you were baptized, God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove, and yet as urgent as a flame,
as urgent as a flame.

2. God called you, "My beloved Son"; you are God's servant true,
sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n, God's holy will to do,
God's holy will to do.

4. Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord; your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we may perfect freedom find,
may perfect freedom find.

Hymn of the Day - #732 - *Borning Cry*

1. "I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."
2. "When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."
3. "In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise."
4. "I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."

Closing Hymn - #537 - *On Our Way Rejoicing*

1. On our way rejoicing gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy? **Refrain**

Refrain: On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

2. Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing now and evermore. **Refrain**

Thank you

Thank you to all the people who are watching our weekly worship and, for all your support financially, in prayer, with words of encouragement, acts of service and more! Your online gifts last week of \$1,705 and mailed in & weekend offerings of \$7,391 help us to keep doing ministry locally, nationally, and around the world!

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers for this weekend are given by Cathy Arenz in memory of Ted Sykes.

New Announcements

Women's Group Planning Meeting - Sun., Jan. 22

We had such a great time at the Cookie Exchange that we'd like to keep the ball rolling! Please join us on Sun., Jan 22 at 12:15pm at Bourbons Smokehouse, 280 E Lincoln Hwy. (Mattina Cafes old spot). You can eat or not, your choice, but bring ideas! Please use the sign up in the bulletin or [online](#), if you would like to join us.

[Peace Church Scholarship](#) will make available the annual scholarship for high school seniors who are planning to attend 4- or 2-year college programs or technical/trade schools. Up to 5 scholarships will be awarded. Recipients will be chosen based on several factors, which are detailed in the application form. These forms are available on the counter in the narthex and must be submitted no later than Wed., Feb. 22, 2023. Interviews will be conducted on Sun., March 19 starting at 12:30.

Coming Up This Week and Beyond

Sunday Adult Class - 9:55am

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for Sunday adult classes.

Jan. 8 - Peace Page Turners Book Discussion

Jan. 15 – Epiphany - “Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem...” Who were the Magi?

Jan. 22 – Epiphany: The beginning of Jesus’ ministry.

Jan. 29 – Rev. Jennifer Beamsley will discuss the work of the Northern Illinois Synod.

Special Prayers for Healing Service - Sat., Jan. 14 - 5:00pm

As a part of our 5:00pm worship on Jan. 14, will include special prayers for healing. If you would like special prayers for yourself or anyone else, please note this opportunity to come forward during service.

New Member Orientation and Reception - Sun., Jan. 15 & 22

We are privileged once again to invite more people to become formal partners with us in our mission of spreading the Gospel and growing in faith. Because of the strange times we are going through, it continues to be a different version of our new member orientation and reception! Part 1 Orientation: Sun., Jan. 15, at 9:45am.

The Reception of New Members will be on Sun., Jan. 22, during worship at 11:00am.

If you are interested in joining or finding out more information, email or call the church office.

Albums & Appetizers Event - Sat., Jan. 21- 10:00am

Come take a walk down memory lane and join us to help organize Peace’s many photos into new dated albums. The new albums will then be displayed in the library for everyone to enjoy.

We will meet in Fellowship Hall on Sat., Jan. 21 from 10:00am - 2:00pm. Bring an appetizer to share and your organizing talents to help make this idea a reality. Please use the sign up [online](#) or in the bulletin, if you would like to help.

First Communion Instruction - Sat., Jan. 21 - 3:30pm

Each year we seek to prepare children in the fifth grade and above for receiving their first communion. The one hour concentrated class will be offered on Sat., Jan. 21, at 3:30pm. A parent or other adult should attend along with the child. Contact the church office for questions or to register.

Lunch & Discussion About the Call Process with Rev. Jennifer Beamsley - Sun., Jan. 29

Please join us for lunch and discussion with Rev. Jennifer Beamsley, assistant to the bishop, on Sun., Jan. 29 from noon - 1:30pm. She will discussing the call process our congregation will be going through and answering any questions.

Lunch will be provided, please bring a dessert to share. Please use the sign up [online](#) or in the bulletin, if you would like to join us.

Peanut Butter Weekend - Jan. 28 & 29

Let’s see if we can top last year’s record amount of peanut butter jars we received! The New Lenox Township food bank especially needs this staple at this time of year. Look for the peanut butter bin in the narthex.

BSA Scouts of America Weekend - Feb. 4 & 5

The annual BSA Scouts of America Weekend is coming up on Feb. 4 & 5. Boy Scouts of all ages, wear your uniforms to church. Girl Scout Weekend will be Mar. 11/12.

VBS Planning Meeting - Wed., Feb. 15 - 6:00pm

Yes, it's time to think summer! Our VBS is amazing, and involves lots of people each helping in some way. We invite you to be a part of the planning crew to join in the behind-the-scenes fun of putting this great event together. The first meeting will be Wed., Feb. 15, at 6:00pm. Please let us know if you would like to help with this ministry in any way.

Youth News

Our amazing Sunday School staff, teachers, kids and parents are faithfully connecting one another to a closer relationship with God. [Sunday School News](#) - **Sunday School Resumes Jan. 8.**

Confirmation resumes for 7th Gr. on Wed., Jan. 18 and 8th Gr. resumes on Wed., Jan. 25

7th-12th Gr. Service Project Opportunity - Sun., Jan. 22

We will meet at church, at 3:00pm, and go to MorningStar Mission. Here we will pass out all of the things we have been collecting for the Blessing Bags and we will be serving dinner. Please let us know if your youth can attend, so we know how many drivers we will need. Adults, please let us know if you would like to drive. This event will count as service hours towards Confirmation and for high school. [Sign up here](#)

7th-12th Gr. January Youth Lock-In - Sat., Jan. 28th - Sun., Jan. 29th

It might be snowing outside but its warm at Peace! What a perfect time of year to have a lock-in. We will meet at church at 4:45pm on Saturday the 28th and worship together and then have some winter fun. Please bring a sleeping bag and pillow. We will provide dinner and breakfast the next morning. The lock-in will end on Sunday the 29th at 12pm. This lock-in is for anyone in 7th grade through 12th grade. Parents are welcome to come and spend the night! [Sign up here](#)

3rd -6th Gr. Paint Night & Pizza - Sat., Jan. 21

Come and join us in Fellowship Hall while we dine on pizza and create a New Year's masterpiece! Please sign up on line or in the bulletin. Cost is \$5 for supplies. [Sign up here](#)

Rehearsals

Children's Choir Rehearsal - Sundays at 9:00am - **Resumes this Sunday**

Children's Choir rehearsal is for anyone 2nd- 8th grade who loves to sing!

We meet in Fellowship Hall at 9:00am and will be finished in time for Sunday School.

Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Tuesdays at 7:00pm

Handbell Choir rehearsals will be on Tuesdays at 7:00pm. Please contact the church office for more information.

Adult Choir Rehearsal - Wednesdays at 7:00pm

Adult Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. We welcome all men and women who love to sing. What could be better than making a joyful noise to the Lord with like-minded people?!

Please contact the church office for more information.

Ladies Ensemble Rehearsal - Sat., Jan. 7 at 3:00pm

Make a joyful noise to the Lord and fellowship with wonderful ladies who enjoy a good time by joining the Peace Ladies Ensemble!! Rehearsals are only one Saturday a month and there are no auditions. Next rehearsal is Sat., Jan. 7 at 3:00pm. Please contact the office for more information.

Prayer List

If your prayer request is for yourself or you have the other person's permission, you may be specific [for example, skin cancer]. For anyone, you may be more general [for example, "a decision to be made," or "health"]. We will keep people on the pray-for list for 60 days unless you tell us otherwise.

The family of Betty Brewer, the family of Richard Esposito, the family of Ron Hnetkovsky, Carol Dohrn (healing of back pain), Lana (aging issues), the Prible family (great loss), Cass Ott (healing), Sharon Obuchina, the Salutric family (struggling with the loss of mom/grandma), Diane Lillie (healing), Jane (Alzheimer's) & Rich (caregiver) Meister, Denise Jones, Ted Chubb, Dorothy Vrshek (hospice), Chris Fehrenkamp, Cathy Richardson, Georgia Piech-Pander, Eric Bartels, Carol Tatro, Bev Kuzdas, Wayne Bell, Barb Chobot...Emily Camp, Josh Brann, Dylan Brann, Marijo (healing), Judy (grief), Jean (peace), Vera (peace), Peggy (peace), Foster (teacher/coach), Sheila (improved health), Crystal, Joyce (pancreatic cancer), Norman and Sandra Braun, Cookie (healing), Helen Bohr (failing health), Doreen Stefansko (illness), Loren Drews (healing), Janel (surgery & chemo), Trent, Erah, Phillip, Erv Pander, Marie (health), Sandy Booton, Alan Booton, Bill Reidy (cancer), Georgianna Bafundo

Groups

Prayer Shawls - Every other Wednesday - Next meeting is Jan. 11

Do you crochet or knit? The Prayer Shawl Ministry is meeting again! A prayer shawl is a shawl prepared for and prayed over for someone that is hurting so they can wrap themselves in God's love. We could provide you with simple patterns or you could create your own. We meet every other Wednesday at 6:00pm. You may also create shawls at home and drop them at church if you are not able to attend in person. Questions, contact the office.

Ruth Circle Quilting - Mon., Jan. 16- 9:00am

Quilting will meet every other Monday at 9:00am. You are welcome to join this great group! Questions? Contact the church office.

Senior Exercise Group - Mondays & Wednesdays

Join us for a low impact, do what you can exercise program for seniors. We meet twice a week: Mondays 12 noon -1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 11:15a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Peace Page Turners Next Book Discussion - Sun., Jan. 8

Our next meeting will be Jan. 8 at 9:45am and we will discuss *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. Copies of the book are available to sign out at church.

Trailblazers - Tues., Jan. 17 - 11:30am

We invite anyone who'd like to get together with some others who are anything but over the hill to come together on Tues., Jan. 17, at 11:30am at church. Bring \$5; the food will be provided. Email or call the church office for more information.

Addiction & Family Support Group - Tuesdays

Is someone you love abusing prescription or street drugs? If you are feeling all alone and would like some support from other parents, siblings, friends and spouses who are traveling the same road you are on, then this group may be for you. We support all roads to recovery, so we share what has or hasn't worked for us. We also understand that we must recover, because our lives have also become unmanageable. We meet Tuesdays from 7 - 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact the church office.

Faith Development & Education

Wednesday Bible Study

We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am. Why not join us online or in person to learn more about this amazing

resource? If you have any questions, call the office. Any version of the Bible you have will work. You do not need to know anything about the Bible to join us!

Everybody Read

Our desire to have people read a common Bible passage is part of our Book of Faith effort. Each month we pick a passage, invite everyone to read it sometime that month. January's is Revelation 21:5-6.

Helping Others

Blood Drive - Sat., Jan. 28 from 9:00am - 1:00pm

Our next blood drive is Sat., Jan. 28, from 9:00am -1:00pm. Please use the Versiti website https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5597808 to make an appointment.

Coat & Winter Wear Collection Through January 31

One Warm Coat is a community service effort assisting in the collection of clean, reusable coats and jackets for donation to local individuals free of charge. Peace Church is following in its mission to give away coats to people of all ages. Items can be dropped off here at church in the entrance area bin. Scarfs, hats, gloves/mittens and boots will also be accepted. Please drop off your items by January 31 so they can be delivered to people that really need them in this cold season.

Help With Sorting & Delivering Donations

We are so blessed as a congregation to collect so many things for people in need. We are looking for volunteers to take turns organizing, bagging and delivering these items to MorningStar, Santa Cruz, New Lenox food pantry, etc. If you would like to help, please call or email the church office.

Because of You and Your Gifts

Gender inequality is a major cause and effect of hunger and poverty. According to the World Food Program, an estimated 60 percent of chronically hungry people are women and girls. Guatemala has a particularly difficult issue with stunting because of malnutrition, with nearly 47 percent of children under 5 affected. LWR has partnered with local organization FundaSistemas on the "Improving Health and Nutrition in Guatemala's Western Highlands" project. Residents are provided with agricultural training, seeds and tools for farming to make sure their food is varied, healthy and nutritious. Before the project, single mother Guisela did not know how to farm. Now she is growing nutritionally packed seasonal vegetables such as carrots, radishes and broccoli, producing delicious oyster mushrooms and is raising hens, which provide nutritious eggs for her young daughters Maily and Darriana. With such options, Guisela can be reassured her daughters have a variety of healthy foods to eat and will grow up strong and healthy.

Please check our Peace website www.peacenewlenox.org regularly for updates.